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### **Louisiana Teacher Quality In National Spotlight**

Two Louisiana education leaders have been selected for the U.S. Department of Education's prestigious Teacher Assistance Corps. Board of Regents member Frances Henry and Regents staff member Dr. Jeanne Burns will be part of a team of 47 education professionals from across the nation who will provide voluntary support to states in their efforts to place a highly-qualified teacher in every classroom. Members of the Teacher Assistance Corps were chosen for their expertise and their demonstrated commitment to improve education in their own states.

"Through her work on the Blue Ribbon Commission for Teacher Quality and her many years of dedicated service to this Board and a broad range of educational causes, Frances Henry has demonstrated unwavering commitment to the improvement of education in Louisiana," Savoie said. "Jeanne Burns has established a reputation as one of the nation's foremost authorities on PK-16 collaboration to improve instructional effectiveness and college readiness. Both Jeanne and Frances are highly deserving of this recognition. Their selection for participation in this nationwide effort speaks volumes about the quality of Louisiana's teacher education reform efforts, and it bodes well for the ultimate success of this project."

As a member of the Louisiana Board of Regents, Frances Henry has been instrumental in making teacher quality a priority for higher education in the state. In addition, she has served as Co-chairperson of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence, a group of state, university, district, school, and community leaders formed in 1999 by the Board of Regents and the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to improve teacher quality in Louisiana. Its specific charge was to recommend policies to the Governor, Board of Regents, and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education that would lead to a cohesive PK-16+ system. The Blue Ribbon Commission has been instrumental in creating recommendations to strengthen teacher quality, which are now being implemented in schools and universities across the state.

Dr. Jeanne Burns, currently on leave from Southeastern Louisiana University, serves as Co-Director of the Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence and Principal Investigator of the Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement State Grant for the Governor's Office of Education and Board of Regents. She has worked with all universities in the state as they have redesigned their teacher preparation programs to address more rigorous state and national standards and new certification requirements for teachers. Dr. Burns has also been involved in the implementation of the state's new

## **Teacher Quality**

### **ADD ONE**

Teacher Preparation Accountability System, which evaluates the quality and quantity of teachers being prepared by Louisiana's higher education institutions.

Louisiana is also one of three states recently selected to work with the Center for Teaching Quality at the University of North Carolina on a study pertaining to retention of new teachers.

(More)

In addition, as a result of Southern University A&M's success in revamping its teacher preparation program, the Education Trust in Washington, D.C., has requested that Southern's success story be presented at the Fourteenth Education Trust National Conference in November. Last year, Louisiana's PK-16 initiative was highlighted as one of five case studies at the conference.

The Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality is continuing to guide teacher education reform through a collaborative approach in conjunction with the Governor's Office, the Board of Regents and the Department of Education.

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